

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-44 (canceled)

45. (New) A server-computer implemented method of providing online repository services to a plurality of users, the method comprising the following steps performed by the server computer:

establishing on the server computer connected to the Internet an account for each of a plurality of users;

storing on the server computer a copyright-protected information object; and

controlling access to the copyright-protected information object by one or more of the plurality of users in accord with one or more restrictions.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the controlling step comprises the step of: prohibiting retransmission of the copyright-protected information object.

47. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the controlling step comprises the step of: prohibiting use of the copyright-protected information object beyond a predetermined time.

48. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the controlling step comprises the steps of: examining license information for the copyright-protected information object to determine a number N (where $N \geq 1$) of simultaneous users who could access the copyright-protected information object; and

allowing no more than N simultaneous users to access the copyright-protected information object.

49. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the controlling step comprises the steps of: receiving license information for the copyright-protected information object, said

license information indicating that the license is for access of the information object for a predetermined time (T_{license});

 permitting access of the copyright-protected information object in accordance with the time constraint imposed by the license information; and

 disabling access to the copyright-protected information object upon expiration of the predetermined time (T_{license}).

50. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the controlling step comprises the steps of:

 determining a time period (T) during which the copyright-protected information object may be accessed;

 allowing the copyright-protected information object to be accessed during that time period (T); and

 disabling access to the copyright-protected information object upon expiration of that time period (T).

51. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of:

 formatting the copyright-protected information object suitable to the requirements of a user's device.

52. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the copyright-protected information object is a news article, a web page, a bookmark, a document, an e-book, an image, a piece of music, a piece of audio, a video clip, or a movie.

53. (New) A server computer system comprising a processor and configured to permit sharing of digital content with one or more of a plurality of users, said server computer system comprising:

 a data communications module capable of establishing a connection with the Internet said

Internet being capable of sending and/or receiving one or more information objects, each said information object comprising voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof;

an account establishment module capable of establishing an account for a plurality of users;

a database interface module capable of storing in said database one or more copyright-protected information objects; and

a security module capable of making the one or more copyright-protected information objects accessible one or more of the plurality of account-holding users in accord with one or more restrictions on the use or transfer of the one or more copyright-protected information objects.

54. (New) The server computer system of claim 53 wherein the one or more restrictions includes a number N (where $N \geq 1$) of times the copyright-protected information object may be accessed simultaneously.

55. (New) The server computer system of claim 54, further comprising a locking mechanism configured to prevent access to the copyright-protected information object more than N times simultaneously.

56. (New) The server computer system of claim 53 wherein the one or more restrictions include a limitation of the time during which a user may access the copyright-protected information object.

57. (New) The server computer system of claim 53 further comprising:
a formatter, said formatter capable of formatting the copyright-protected information object suitable to the requirements of a user's device.

58. (New) The server computer system of claim 57, wherein the formatter is capable of

selecting a suitable format from a database of formats to format the copyright-protected information object.

59. (New) The server computer system of claim 57, wherein the formatter is capable of selecting a set of stored rules to format the copyright-protected information object suitable to the user's device.

60. (New) The server computer system of claim 57, wherein the formatter formats the information object to fit the screen of said user's device.

61. (New) The server computer system of claim 57, wherein the user's device is a hand-held computer with a touch-sensitive screen, a client computer, a television or a telephone.